



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

January 21, 2011

Preparedness and Planning

Disaster Preparedness Lags for At-Risk Populations

Researchers at East Carolina University surveyed 37,000 residents in six states and found that individuals who are disabled or suffer from chronic diseases were less likely to have an emergency kit in the event of a natural disaster. [The study](#), published in the recent issue of the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, found that 40% of all households have at least four emergency preparedness items.

Judge Blocks Release of TSA Whole-Body Scan Images

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has shielded from public review 2,000 whole-body [scan images](#). The Electronic Privacy Information Center, a nonprofit group focused on civil rights and privacy interests, sued in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to force the Department of Homeland Security to turn over the images and other documents. The center is examining the use of body scanning technology and its implications for civil rights. Lawyers for the center want to review unfiltered or unobscured images of volunteers that the body scanning technology captured. Justice Department lawyers said that the images release would constitute a threat of transportation security by revealing certain vulnerabilities of body-scanning technology.

America's Health Rankings

The 21st Edition of America's Health Rankings®, the longest running annual assessment of our nation's health on a state-by-state basis, was recently released. Based on two decades of consistent tracking, the [2010 Edition](#) calls for the nation to change unhealthy behaviors that are contributing to preventable, chronic diseases as the key to improving our nation's health. Trends cite smoking as the greatest health challenge of the past 20 years and indicate that obesity is likely to be the next national health battle.

Bioterror Fears Prompt U.S. to Keep Its Smallpox Cache

The U.S. and Russia will fight international efforts this week to set a deadline to destroy the last known [stocks of smallpox](#), saying the deadly virus is needed for research to combat bioterrorism. Members of the World Health Organization meet to begin debating the future of what is left of what was one of the world's most lethal viruses before it was eradicated more than 30 years ago: samples kept in tightly guarded freezers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and a Russian government lab near Novosibirsk. The U.S. says it needs to maintain the virus samples to develop new drugs and vaccines to counter a potential bioterror attack or accidental release of smallpox from an unsanctioned stock.

News

New MDCH Director

Olga Dazzo has taken office as Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health after being appointed by current Governor Rick Snyder. She came to the office as president and CEO of Health Reform Innovations LLC, a consulting firm focused on improving health and lowering costs. Previously she served as vice president and executive director of Jackson Health Plans in Miami Florida, which combined with the decade she spent as President and CEO of Physicians Health Plan in Lansing gives her great expertise in Medicaid programs. She has also served in key leadership roles which include vice president for strategic management and health systems development at Sparrow Health System in Lansing, Michigan. Early in her career, Ms. Dazzo served as vice president for finance at a Lansing-based home health agency.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!
February 4, 2011

Influenza Vaccination Coverage against Influenza in France

Researchers in *BMC Public Health* surveyed a random sample of the population of mainland France to analyze seasonal and pandemic vaccine coverage. They surveyed 10,091 people via retrospective cross-sectional telephone survey and asked if they would be vaccinated if the vaccine was offered free of charge or if they received a voucher from national health insurance. The [survey showed](#) that seasonal influenza vaccine uptake remained stable at 20.6% and pandemic influenza vaccine uptake was low at 11.1% of the population. Families with children less than 5 years old were most likely to vaccinate their children for pandemic influenza.

Influenza Vaccination Coverage in the United States 2000 to 2010

In the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* experts from the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC outline influenza [vaccine coverage data](#) from 2000 to 2010. They collected data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) questionnaire and the National 2009 H1N1 Flu Survey (NHFS). State datasets were not included.

Costs Associated with Response to a School-Based Pertussis Outbreak

A report published in the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* shows the data from a [pertussis outbreak](#) in a school in Nebraska. A five-year-old child came to the school presenting with pertussis infection and with precautions implemented only 26 became infected out of 600 students.

U.S. Moves to Address Antibiotic Resistant Bacterial Diseases

Antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria are on the rise and threatening the efficacy of existing drug treatments. Scientists fear a time when antibiotics will be useless to stop infections due mutations caused by the overuse of antibiotics. Legislation has been introduced at the federal and state level targeting the overuse of antibiotics in farm animals to help reduce the prevalence of super bacteria. A U.S. Food and Drug Administration [study found](#) that 80 percent of all antibiotics produced in the U.S. went to farm animals.

Flu Prevention for Children

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released a toolkit to teach children about flu prevention. [The toolkit](#) is aimed at childcare providers, and emphasizes the important role they play in teaching children how to stay healthy. The lessons plans cover hand washing, covering your cough and sneeze, and how germs spread. The lessons also include songs, puzzles, and other activities. A PDF of the tool is available online.

Affordable Care Act: Health Center Planning Grants

Up to \$10M in funding is now available through Health Center Planning Grants program, intended to help national organizations qualify to become community health centers. [This initiative](#) will support approximately 125 new project sites in FY 2011. Eligible applicants are public and non-profit private entities, including tribal, faith-based, and community-based organizations. Applicants must not be current Section 330-funded health centers. The deadline for application is March 18.

Missouri Guard Training Inmates to Help Respond to Disasters

The Missouri National Guard plans to start training some of the state's prison inmates to help it during natural disasters and other emergencies. Under the proposal, the prison inmates would become a more formalized part of the Guard's disaster response. This would give the Guard a larger and better trained pool of workers to respond to emergencies. [The training](#) would focus on skills such as filling and stacking sandbags and removing debris. Prison inmates already have been used in the past to help local officials during floods and other emergencies.

New National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB) Will Advise DHHS

Six experts from outside the federal government will join the NBSB, a federal advisory committee which provides expert advice and guidance on preventing, preparing for, and responding to adverse health effects of public health emergencies to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The DHHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response serves as the principal advisor on bioterrorism and other public health emergencies and coordinates the federal public health and medical response to disasters. [The board](#) was created under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act in 2006 and chartered in May 2007.

Surveillance

CDC Releases First Health Disparities Report

This report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) contains 22 essays focusing on disparities in mortality, morbidity, behavioral risk factors, and social determinants of health at the national level. The findings in these topic-specific essays will be used as baseline estimates for monitoring and reporting changes in health disparities and inequalities in periodic reports in upcoming years. The information in [the report](#) will help achieve the goals of the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities and can be used as additional support for efforts to implement policies, programs, and promising practices that might reduce disparities in the shortest time-frame.

Fatal H1N1 Cases in the 2010/11 Season in the United Kingdom

In Eurosurveillance researchers provide data on current 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza circulation and seasonal strain circulation within the United Kingdom. Samples were obtained from secondary care facilities, hospitals, and community-based clinics. The [data shows](#) that 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza is currently affecting the population in the same way as last influenza season in which those under 65 are most at risk. The most severely affected have not been previously vaccinated.

Haiti Cholera Epidemic Update

In the 10 weeks since an epidemic erupted in Haiti, cholera has killed more than 3,000 people, partly because the distribution of health supplies remains a logistical nightmare. A global medical aid agency battling the disease added that another aspect of the problem has been a lack of access to untainted drinking water. The death toll soared to 3,333 and another 140,000 people have fallen sick, Haiti's Ministry of Health (PAHO) reported, publishing the most recent data available through December 26. The [PAHO said](#) an adequate supply of medicine was steadily streaming in, but distributing those supplies "remains a complex logistic operation, sometimes made worse by an unstable security situation." The Haitian government is estimating there will be at least 400,000 cholera cases in the first 12 months of the epidemic, a period ending next October.

Stress, Preventive Measures Reduce ILI

In the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* researchers studied if facemask use and hand hygiene compliance were negatively affected by stress. This study utilizes the University of Michigan M-Flu study data which comprised of 1297 university students who completed the baseline survey as well as at least one of six weekly follow-up surveys. The [data showed](#) that stress increased influenza like illness (ILI) in the student population but did not affect the use of facemasks or hand hygiene compliance.

Communications

App Shows Health Statistics for Hub

A new cell phone and web-based application (app) clues Bostonians into the healthiness of their neighborhoods. The [Wellness Trail app](#) provides health facts about 12 city neighborhoods, comparing morbidity rates for asthma, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease using Boston Public Health Commission data.

Providers Strongly Commit to Signing Up for HER Incentive Program

An overwhelming majority of the nation's hospitals and a large percentage of office-based physicians have said they [intend to register](#) for federal incentive payments for adoption and meaningful use of certified electronic health records (EHRs). The numbers represent a reversal of the previously low HER adoption rate.

Regional News

Responding to a Power Outage in Region 8

On the morning of October 27, the Gogebic County (MI) Emergency Manager was informed that there were widespread power outages throughout the surrounding area. Approximately 300 homes were without power. The power would be out indefinitely due to the number of lines that were down across the area. During this time period, the weather was very cold with temperatures near freezing. Government officials were greatly concerned for the well-being of county residents and those of the neighboring county (Iron County, WI).

Gogebic County Emergency Manager, James Loeper, made the decision to open a temporary community shelter. A shelter was necessary to allow those without power or heat to have a place to go until power was restored. The county emergency management agency made arrangements with Gogebic Community College (GCC), which is a designated Alternate Care Center (ACC), for the use of their facilities.

The county emergency management agency notified Aspirus Grand View Hospital (AGVH), the American Red Cross, and local media outlets of the temporary shelter. Mr. Loeper asked if AGVH could assist with acquiring the ACC supplies that were purchased through the Region 8 hospital preparedness program office. At that point, all of the cots and room dividers from AGVH were mobilized and sent over to the GCC. It was quickly evident that the number of cots and supplies would not be enough to accommodate the number of people that may be utilizing the shelter.

Ms. Julie Monville, the AGVH Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, contacted the Region 8 Medical Coordination Center, explained the situation, and requested additional ACC supplies. Within minutes the Region 8 MCC mobilized supplies from Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital, Baraga Memorial Hospital, and the Region 8 warehouse. The Regional Transport Plan was utilized to move the ACC supplies between health care facilities. These plans have been exercised in the past, but have never activated for an actual event. The process worked well.

This experience was a tremendous learning opportunity. It demonstrated the region's ability to efficiently and effectively respond to such an incident. In addition, it provided peace of mind to the local jurisdictions to know the help would be on the way by only making one phone call. This event showed the benefits of preplanning for such incidents, and demonstrated how the region came together in a very short time in time of need. For additional information,

please contact Ms. Julie Monville by email at jmonville@gvhs.org.

Other News

Britain Charges 9 in Plot to Bomb U.S. Embassy

Nine of the 12 men arrested in Britain on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack against targets were charged on December 27 with conspiracy to set off explosions and testing potential bombs. A U.S. State Department spokesman confirmed that the U.S. Embassy in London was on the list of potential targets.

Congress Faces Homeland Security Decisions

Congress is expected to address a handful of homeland security issues through legislation and hearings in the next few months. House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Peter King (R-NY) said he plans to hold a series of high-profile hearings beginning in February on the threat of homegrown terrorism and some meaty, policy-intensive issues were left unfinished in the last Congress: cyber-security, border security, immigration enforcement, the Patriot Act (three provisions of which expire February 28), and authorization of the Homeland Security Department budget.

Stay Healthy in 2011

Happy New Year from the Public Health Foundation Learning Resource Center! As 2011 begins, it is important to take precautions to avoid contracting the many illnesses that are common during this time of year, including influenza. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to keep your community healthy this year. The website offers a 20% off coupon for cold & flu learning resources, too.

Training & Education

ACEP Launches Integrative Training Program on Disaster Planning

Under a cooperative agreement with FEMA, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) has launched a free first-of-its-kind integrative training that covers the development and maintenance of pre-incident plans ensuring the efficient distribution of patients, the sharing of information and resources, and the coordination between state/local agencies and hospitals. Additional topics include patient and resource tracking, credentialing systems, deployable federal resources, principles of community emergency planning, and more.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 25, 2011	6th Annual CBRNE Conference The purpose of <u>this year's event</u> will be to bring together members from incident response agencies to assess current capabilities and technologies to combat and detect CBRNE attacks and to ensure best practices are being utilized. Areas of focus include assessing the national response framework and incident management system, exploring multiple detection methods for a variety of threats and analyzing updates in technology and protective equipment.	Dallas, TX

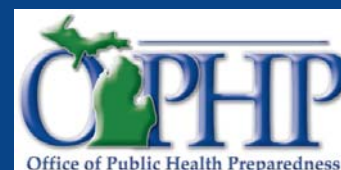
Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 27, 2011	Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza 2011 The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) would like to invite you to register for this free live internet simulcast. This year's program features an array of topics including epidemiology, cross-cutting issues like communication, antiviral deployment, and infrastructure and surge. Sessions will be available immediately on-demand post-meeting. Visit the IDSA website for additional information, including registration details.	Webinar
Jan. 27, 2011 12pm	Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Dissecting the Post-spill Impact Program faculty will provide the latest public health update concerning the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and discuss the potential long term effects it could have on the physical, mental, and economic health of residents along the Gulf Coast. Please contact Denise Fleming for more information.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8663
Feb. 10, 2011 4pm	FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. This webinar and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Feb. 15, 2011 2pm	EMAC: A Basic Understanding and Use of the System by Public Health & Medical Professionals This one-hour webinar focuses on basic information that all health and medical personnel need to know about the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and the relationship of mission-ready packages (MRPs) to the EMAC operations system. The session includes discussion of the five phases of the EMAC system and covers such topics as: recommended actions for preparing for deployment, developing response capabilities into MRPs, requesting and providing assistance, what to expect when deploying, and reimbursement. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat now.	Webinar
Feb. 19, 2011	Accessing Health Care Coverage & Services for MI-Child Training This workshop is for people who serve as "support parents" to fellow parents of children with special needs. Support parents will be able to identify types of public health care coverage available, apply for benefits online, list services available to children and families with hereditary disorders, get information on accessing coverage for mental health services, and become familiar with social security programs for young people. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. Click here for more information, including registration information.	The ARC Dearborn 27325 West Warren Dearborn, MI 48127 (313) 562-0219 Additional Dates: Mar 5 - Muskegon, MI Apr 9 - Lawrence, MI Apr 30 - Petoskey, MI

Date/Time	Event	Location
Feb. 22, 2011 8am	Pediatric Disaster Management Conference <u>The conference</u> , sponsored by Michigan's Region 6 and the DeVos Children's Hospital, objectives include: recognize that all pediatric age groups must be considered in all aspects of disaster preparedness; identify that children in disaster situations are a vulnerable population, related to their unique needs developmentally, physiologically and emotionally and pediatric health care providers have a responsibility in meeting needs of children of all ages in disaster preparedness; link regional hospital health care providers with community and regional responders in pediatric disaster preparedness; and recognize that children of all ages need attention when disaster plans are written and exercised, equipment and supplies are purchased and disaster response and recovery efforts are activated.	Holiday Inn Ferris State University 1005 Perry Avenue Big Rapids, MI 49307
Feb. 22, 2011	2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit The release of the <i>National Health Security Strategy</i> late last year and the companion <i>Biennial Implementation Plan</i> present significant public health preparedness initiatives that have implications at all levels of government and the private sector. <u>The Summit</u> will provide an opportunity for attendees to better understand the goals and objectives of these two plans and provide feedback to national leaders to further inform the future development of these initiatives.	Atlanta, GA
Feb. 23, 2011 11am	FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. <u>This webinar</u> and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Mar. 4, 2011	Is Your Teen Ready for Adult Life? This workshop is for families of teens (or professionals who serve them) with special health care needs, receiving mental health services, or who have a disability. Information and practical suggestions will be shared for helping teens prepare to transition from high school to employment, high school to higher education, home to independent living, and/or from child to adult community services. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <u>Click here</u> for more information, including registration information.	Ionia, MI Additional MI Locations: Mar. 24 - Ann Arbor Apr. 28 - Alpena Apr. 29 - Sault Ste. Marie
Mar. 14, 2011 3pm	FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. <u>This webinar</u> and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar

Date/Time	Event	Location
Mar. 21, 2011	Public Health and Radiation Emergency Preparedness This conference provides state and local health officials and their partners with the tools necessary to develop and implement response and recovery plans related to mass casualty radiation events. Visit the conference website for more information.	Atlanta, GA
Apr. 3, 2011	E-Beam and X-Ray Irradiation Technologies The National Center for Electron Beam Research (NCEBR) serves as an unbiased venue for academic, government, and industry scientists to carry out strategic electronic pasteurization and sterilization research and commercial projects using E-beam and X-rays. To address the needs of the food, phytosanitary, agribusiness, and pharmaceutical industries the NCEBR is organizing a week-long hands-on workshop in E-Beam and X-ray technologies in April 2011.	400 Discover Drive College Station, TX 77845
May 2, 2011	Supporting Youth into Healthy Productive Adulthood This workshop is for individuals working with young people in faith-based organizations, schools, and youth groups in Wayne County. Participants will explore ways to give parents/caregivers, teachers, and others working with children the tools they need to make responsible decisions. CUEs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. Click here for more information, including registration information.	Detroit, MI Additional MI Locations: May 7 - Detroit
May 7, 2011	Becoming a Family Support Network (FSN) Parent This workshop is for parents of children and/or youth with special needs who want to volunteer as "support parents" within the Michigan FSN. Support parents will learn about the principles of family-centered care, steps to maintain confidentiality, communication skills, benefits of FSN, steps to problem solving, and resource information. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. Click here for more information, including registration information.	Sault Ste. Marie, MI



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This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U90/TP517018-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.